

past, the slightest possibility of the dissolution of the union of these States. We are too closely united by the ties of interest ever to divide—the people would not know how to begin to divide.—Our northern brethren, with all their clamorous sympathy for negroes, have no idea of pushing things to that extremity. They know too well who it is that gets the real benefit from your rice fields, your cotton fields and sugar plantations, ever to separate from such rich possessions.

They will keep up the clamor about slavery as long as they can make political capital out of it—as long as they can sow division in our ranks, and rob us in detail of our equal rights and privileges as members of the Union. The boldest infractions of the Constitution which have taken place for years, were upon this subject of slavery by two leading Northern States, Massachusetts and New York, who openly and shamelessly repudiated that plain feature of the Constitution, which gives to the Southern Slave holder, the right to recover his fugitive slave. South Carolina talked of nullifying an obnoxious law of Congress, but New York and Massachusetts practiced it; and yet we have never heard the Union was in danger from their acts, but when a Southern man remonstrates against such unconstitutional aggressions upon his property, he is told to be quiet, he is pursuing an abstraction.

In my judgment, sir, the only disunion we need fear, is a disunion among ourselves. United, we can bid defiance to all our enemies; divided, "none so poor as to do us reverence." There is one fertile source of division in our ranks, *the power and patronage of the Federal Government*. Washington alone, with its brilliant official stations, is worthy the ambition of aspiring genius; the Northern press, with its thousand blasts, can alone waft reputations to the remotest corners of the Republic. It is not then Sir, very surprising, that the poor South should be regarded as an abstraction, the rich and teeming North a substantial reality. Let us then, as the temptation to stray is very great, keep a vigilant eye upon our public servants; let us pass the resolutions before us, that gentlemen

may know what are our sentiments upon the subjects which now agitate our public councils. If ever that glorious motto of the gallant Decatur, "our country, right or wrong we go with her," was true, it is so in the South on the subject of slavery. When this institution is assailed from without its borders, the man who can stop to calculate the cost of defending it, is no Southern man in feeling. If it be an evil, those people who endure it, are the sole and exclusive judges of the mode and method of redress.

There is, Mr. Speaker, a manifest propriety, and an urgent necessity for the passage of these resolutions at this session. It is in vain to disguise the fact, that the speech and vote of one of our Senators, Mr. Badger, upon the Compromise Bill of the last session of Congress, was much disapproved of by many Whigs throughout North Carolina; a disapprobation which required the most stringent party drill in this Legislature to overcome. They were surprised that a gentleman representing the large slaveholding interest of North Carolina, could not on that subject have acted with the great body of Southern Senators, together with Berrien, of Georgia, and Clayton, of Delaware, two names dear to the Whigs of North Carolina.

I did not, Sir, vote for Mr. Badger, but I am not disposed to do him the slightest injustice. I believe him to be a gentleman of great talents, and the strictest integrity. I admit that his vote upon that occasion was not a decisive test of his opinions, and that it might have been merely an error of judgment. Should he hereafter in his place as Senator, support the spirit and object of these resolutions, and give to his State the benefit of his great abilities, no man in North Carolina will acquiesce more cheerfully in his election than I will, or will rejoice more in any future honor which may be bestowed upon him. Should, however, he decline to do so, it is not for me to say what should be his course; but this I will say in the most confident belief that I speak the real sentiments of those who hear me, that if he declines to support the spirit of these resolutions, he will neither represent the majority of this Legislature which elec-